for payment of arrear wages is in progress. Modalities for payment of pension are being worked out. Implementation of various welfare measures such as, construction of houses, town administration, improved medical facilities, water supply etc., is a continuing process.

[English]

Accident at Nutandanga Colliery

2122. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any accident has occurred at Nutandanga Colliery of Pandaveswar area of Eastern Coalfields Limited on 25 September, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the cause of the accident;

(c) the number of persons killed in the accident and the details of relief provided to the dependents of the victims;

(d) the action taken against the persons responsible for the accident; and

(e) the steps taken to avoid the recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). In the early hours of 24.9.1996, three minors entered the mixing chamber of abandoned stowing bunker of Nutandanga colliery of Pandabeswar area of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and died due to deficiency of oxygen in the atmosphere of the mixing chamber.

An enquiry into the accident was conducted by the Internal Safety Organisation of the coal company which revealed that the fencing provided with iron girder at the particular place was found broken. The Agent and the Manager of the Colliery have been issued show cause notices.

Each family of the deceased has been paid Rs. 10,000/- as immediate relief.

(e) The following steps have been taken to avoid recurrence of such accidents :

(1) Rechecking of the abandoned pits/inclines and other abandoned dangerous mine entries.

(2) Drawing up of time bound action plan for filling and/or plugging up of the disused/ abandoned entries to prevent inadvertent entry.

(3) Apart from statutory inspection, the effectiveness of the system is monitored by a Task Force.

[Translation]

Direct Foreign Investment

2123. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether out of total permissible investment proposals of direct investment only 30 percent have been implemented after initiating liberalisation process in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). As against total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approvals amounting to Rs. 76261 crores (excluding Euro Issues) between 1991 to 1996 (Upto September) the actual foreign direct investment inflow is Rs. 18151 crores (Upto Sept. 96) This indicates an approval: inflow ratio of roughly 4:1. However, gestation period of projects vary and mega-projects (Power, Refinery etc.) take much longer time. Excluding Mega projects (which involve nearly 50% of FDI approved) the approval: inflow ratio would be about 2:1. Inflow is showing an ever-increasing trend in as much as it has increased from Rs. 351 crores in 1991 to Rs. 675 crores during 1992, Rs. 1787 crores during 1993, Rs. 2982 crores during 1994, Rs. 6370 crores during 1995 and Rs. 5985 crores during 1996 (i.e. upto Sept., 96). The inflow of Rs. 6370 crores during 1995, is more than the total FDI inflows during the last 4 years. This trend indicates that foreign equity inflows have picked up.

(c) Government constantly reviews the investment policy so as to make it increasingly competitive and investor friendly. In addition, the Central Government has recently revamped the Foreign Investment Promotion Board to make the approval process quicker and more transparent. For promoting investment and attracting entrepreneurs to backward areas, the State Governments are offering variety of incentives such as Capital Subsidy, Sales Tax exemption, Power subsidy, allotment of Land on priority, setting up of growth centre and transport subsidy in hilly areas.

Regarding monitoring of implementation of projects, actual inflow of foreign direct investment is monitored by Reserve Bank of India. Implementation details of foreign investment projects are not centrally maintained.

Monitoring of the projects is to be primarily done by the State Governments since commissioning of most projects depends upon various state level clearances including land, power etc. However, efforts have been made by this Department from time to time, to determine the status of implementation of foreign investment projects, like letters addressed to large number of approval holders for obtaining feed-back, through the concerned Administrative Ministries etc. Further various

efforts are on in the Department to monitor implementation in collaboration with RBI. FIPB will be taking up monitoring of mega projects with a view to ascertain problems. State Government would also be involved since they have a vital role. As a part of further strengthening the monitoring of implementation of projects, procedural simplifications have been suggested at the State level.

[English]

Export of Gems and Jewellery

2124. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of Gems and Jewellery has been declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the export of Gems and Jewellery made during the last three years and the current year so far; and

(c) the steps taken to boost the export of Gems and Jewellery?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA). (a) and (b). Export of Gem and Jewellery during the last three years including for the period from April to October, 1996 has been as follows :

(Value in US $ Million)

Item	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-97 (Apr. Oct.) (Provl.)
Diamonds	3574.50	3937.00	4577.54	2546.27
Gold Jewellery	308.60	421.20	480.40	381.15
Other	111.60	142.20	222.50	95.83
Total	3994.70	4500.40	5257.44	3023.25

(c) Expert of gems and jewellery is one of the major thrust areas of our exports. Government has recently taken a number of steps to boost exports in this sector which include fine tuning of Export and Import policy as announced in March, 1996, ensuring easy availability of raw materials at internationally competitive prices; encouraging exporters to participate in international exhibition; making India an international trading centre for diamonds and providing necessary assistance to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council to develop trained man-power for the industry. Recently, the interest rates on post-shipment credits has been lowered to facilitate exports.

Tax Evasion by Owners of Ceilo Car

2125. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the massive evasion of tax has been detected is the sale of the upmarket car Cielo to Delhi buyers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). There is as yet no conclusive evidence of evasion of sales tax as the matter is under active investigation by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

[Translation]

Foreign Currency

2126. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign currency seized by the customs department from the travellers at International Airports during the current year; and

(b) the names of countries to which these passengers belong, the extent of amount seized from each of the passenger at various International Airports separately?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Capital Stock Exchange

2127. SHRI A. SAMPATH :
SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of places in the country where stock exchanges are functioning;

(b) the number of shares listed, exchange-wise;

(c) the volume of business done during 1995-96, stock exchange-wise;

(d) the estimated number of share-holders in the country;

(e) the steps taken to protect the interest of the share-holders and to promote share-consciousness among the people;

(f) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding the function of the stock exchange;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Although there are twenty two recognised Stock Exchanges functioning in the country,